

## ***Shawnee Neighborhood Association***

### ***A bit of history***

In a phone conversation with the past Shawnee Neighborhood Association president, Howard Breckinridge, he last remembered the association ceased functioning around the mid 1970's. There may have been other attempts at forming an association since that time. The absence of an organized community effort in the Shawnee neighborhood has caused the neighborhood to practically stand still as other neighborhoods have made some gains. It was not until October 2007 that an interim board was voted in by residents to form a neighborhood association. Residents were motivated by the success experienced in the wet/dry vote effort and decided to organize to promote other neighborhood initiatives.

### ***Some Demographics***

The Shawnee neighborhood located 4 miles west of downtown is bounded by I – 264 on the East, Broadway on the South, Bank Street on the North and the Ohio River on the West. There are an estimated 13,603 residents and 7,234 housing units within these boundaries, making Shawnee one of the largest of the 70 neighborhoods located in the metro area. The Shawnee neighborhood has an aging housing stock. Most of the homes were built around 1946 that now require maintenance that many of the homeowners cannot afford.

The neighborhood has led in too many crime statistics as reported by LMPD. This report will not attempt to break down all the stats but residents are rising to the occasion to reduce the incidence of crime in the community.

Economic development has been at a standstill. The most recent neighborhood redevelopment plan was completed in 1982. The absence of a neighborhood organization to provide leadership has contributed to the lack of follow through on many of the plan recommendations.

### ***A Neighborhood Organizes***

As a result of the success experienced by residents during the wet/dry vote the next step was to organize an association to take the lead on future neighborhood initiatives. In October 2007 an election was held by the membership to elect an interim board of directors to organize a neighborhood association.

## **SNA Activities to Date**

- Formally adopted by laws by January 2008.
- Started a newsletter and set up a web site
- Incorporated and received 501C3 status by April
- Adopted Market Street as the target area for the Brightside City Wide Clean Ups
- Partnered with PNC Bank and Norton Health Care to sponsor our first neighborhood community health fair.
- Started a Tai Chi class for seniors.
- Exploring opportunities for a health care clinic in the neighborhood.
- Participating in a study to develop the Market Street Improvement Study.
- Partnering with the Weed and Seed Strategy to reduce Crime.
- Elected officers at the first annual meeting in July.

## ***Challenges***

“Never underestimate the power of a community organizer and an organized community.”

Betty Baye, Courier Journal - November, 6, 2008.

This quote sums up the challenges for the neighborhood association. A well organized neighborhood can effect change. There are programs and services that can address change for: crime, housing, economic development, health issues and education. Apathy remains a challenge and perhaps as large a challenge as those previously mentioned. What program(s) address community apathy?

“So let us summon a new spirit of patriotism, of service and responsibility where each of us resolves to pitch in and work harder.”

Who is the source of this quote?

As a beginning, this quote can provide direction to address community apathy.

**In the end it's up to you**